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# In Memoriam. Unfinished. For Robert Barlow

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IN MEMORIAM. UNFINISHED. FOR ROBERT BARLOW

This anthropologist had learned  
Mayan and Náhuatl,  
and had a good theory  
of Mexican Culture growth  
disproved by now by new diggings.  
He had a white horse as a gag,  
servants who fought with knives,  
and taught at a tourist school  
in Mexico, D.F..  
I didn't like him much  
but he was a human being,  
gave easy tests,  
and did not kill more  
than he had to, so I'm sad  
he died instead of his  
accuser: a student said he was  
a fairy and got expelled.  
He had a nervous breakdown  
and flew to Yucatán  
where the folk seem mild  
away from violence  
in love. It was  
his crisis of maturity  
but he muffed it, saying  
to his father's fathers' sperm,  
"this is the end of the line:  
all out," there, where the priests,  
he said, would ring  
cathedral bells at midnight  
to wake their Indians to love  
away from suicide in conquest.  
With his round glasses  
and two buck teeth  
he looked like the glyph  
for the day 'Two Rabbit,'  
but was strong on action.  
Later, some of his verse  
came out in *Poetry*, set  
in the smaller type because  
it was unfinished like the life,  
the works, and these regards.

Alan Dugan